

Birth of Jazz – New Orleans

Name: _____

[Ken Burns: Jazz](#) - (Part 1 – 7:50 – 37:10)

1. We hear that New Orleans has a population of just about every nationality a person could imagine. We also hear that there is a “whole lot of integrating going on”. How would you feel about moving to a place like that, good or bad? How would this environment influence you? (7:50 – 8:30)
2. Improvisation is defined as, “*something that is created without preparation.*” How do athletes improvise? When are times you improvise? (9:22 – 9:48)
3. Use one word to describe the music you hear at (10:22 – 10:49).
4. Class Discussion: A Creole is defined as a person with, “*mixed European and black descent, especially in the Caribbean.*” Describe how Classical Europe, African roots, and Caribbean backgrounds would be the “three ingredients in the Gumbo” that would form Jazz. (11:51 – 12:39)
****In leading the class, I would use the notes from pages 13 & 14.**
5. At 13:32, we see a French Opera House, one of three in the city. There were also 2 symphony orchestras. New Orleans had all of the music of the day, like no other city in the world. If you were a composer with the greatness of Beethoven, would you travel to New Orleans to hear this music? Would it impact you? (13:32 – 14:00)
6. We hear again of New Orleans and the tremendous amount of diversity that it contains. We live in Seymour, IN where there is some diversity, but not anything close to New Orleans. Do you sometimes dream of living in a place like New Orleans or New York City? Would you rather stay in Seymour? There is no right/wrong answer as this seeks your opinion, not some fact. Please explain your thoughts on this. (14:00 – 15:05)
7. Minstrel music in America is complex. It is ugly in its mocking of skin color, yet it built on the pop music which was part of the “gumbo” needed in jazz (lively music & dance). Think and describe a time in your life where something ugly was needed for you to benefit. Does this happen when we eat meat? Is this, in a small way, similar to Christ’s sacrifice on the cross where something very ugly needed to happen for us to receive salvation? (15:18 – 16:52)
8. Ragtime, a combination of African-American spirituals, minstrels, folk melodies, and military marches, came on the scene in the 1890’s. It took the above 4 qualities and made a brand new music that some people loved. Name a recipe that takes multiple ingredients and combines them into an extraordinary food. (21:05 – 23:19)
9. Wynton Marsalis describes the importance of the blues. It had the music of the Black Baptist Church. It was a cry to God for deliverance from sin and from their difficult lives. They were meant to bring joy, not sorrow. What story would you tell through music if you had the opportunity? (25:31 – 28:45).
10. With the addition of blues, we now can hear the jazz forming at 29:30. In your opinion, what was the greatest contributing factor that brought this form of jazz together? (29:30 – 31:05) (34:08 – 37:10).